



Letters, we get letters . . .

Foreign Service Families, this newsletter is for you. If it is to be of maximum interest and use to you, it needs your input. We welcome any and all comments about this first issue — its content, layout, graphics . . . whatever. Please write to the Editor, Liaison, Posting Briefing Centre, Lester B. Pearson Building, External Affairs, Ottawa K1A 0G2.



The FSCA was founded in 1976 to meet the needs of the foreign service community. Since that time it has been an active, productive organization. It has published an informative newsletter, the *Bulletin*, three times a year, done in-depth studies on a variety of topics (health, education, pensions, spousal employment, mobility and the family), held informational functions (panel discussions, guest speakers) plus hosted social functions. The question now is: Is our association still meeting our needs as best it can?

In the April issue of the *Bulletin* there will be a questionnaire pertaining to the role of the FSCA as it is seen today. There will be extra copies available at all the posts and in the External Affairs Building. Members and non-members alike are encouraged to take a few minutes to fill it in and return it to the *Bulletin* c/o the FSCA. Your responses will help give our association direction for the future.

President's note

I am pleased to have been asked to contribute to this new bulletin. We wish it well. Each issue, in this column, we will be keeping you informed of the activities of the FSCA. For further information please contact our office, 593-5729, or write to the FSCA, Lester B. Pearson Building, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

The FSCA has held two important functions so far this year. In November, the Under Secretary, Mr. Marcel Massé spoke to us on "The Shape of Things to Come". This was attended by 160 members and non-members alike. Mr. Massé's speech stimulated a very good question and answer period.

In January we sponsored a one day Art Display which was held in the Crush Lobby. The thirty-six participating artists, whose work ranged from jewellery to pottery, papier-mâché to paintings, were all from our foreign service community. More than three hundred people visited the exhibit and their response was so enthusiastic that you might well see a repeat next year.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Canadian Trivia

- that more snow falls on Canada than any other country in the world;
- that Canadians are now a nation of showerers not bathers. (The average per capita use of water for showers has tripled since 1970);
- that the average Canadian showers for 7.5 minutes (teenagers are not average);
- that the wealthiest city in Canada, for the third consecutive year, is Markham, just north of Toronto, with an average income of \$21 411. Ottawa, often dubbed "fat-cat city", is ninth with an average income of \$18 075;
- that four out of ten Canadian couples divorce within an average nine years after their marriage. The majority of these people are between 30-40;
- that our population has now hit 25 million — double what it was in 1945.

External Affairs Trivia

- that the first Canadian representative abroad was William Dixon who was sent to London in 1868 as the Chief Immigration Agent. (At that time there were so many independent agents all promoting immigration to Canada that the government felt it had to send an official representative);
- that the first female head of post was Elizabeth MacCallum who was Chargé d'affaires in Lebanon in 1954. She is now 89 and living in Ottawa;
- that the newest Canadian Embassy building to be opened was in Mexico in 1982;
- that the newest Canadian designed Chancery to be opened will be in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in June 1984;
- that our largest Embassy/High Commission is in London, England with 159 Canadian based personnel;
- that we no longer have any Consulates. In 1983, Birmingham and Glasgow were the last two to be changed to Consulates General;
- that we currently have two female heads of post — Irene Johnson in Philadelphia and Elsa Amadio in Milan.

Posting Briefing Centre Trivia

- that 570 Canadian children have now received their *Child Health Record* booklets;
- that 660 spouses have filled in and returned their *Direct Communication With Spouses* form. Have you? If not, the form has been reprinted here.

Spouses, did you receive this publications directly ?

Those spouses who have already filled in and returned the *Direct Communication With Spouses* form, should have received this publication at their homes (or P.O. Box numbers at certain posts). The form is reprinted here below, for those who wish to fill it in now, have it signed by the employee (as required by the Department) and send it to the Posting Briefing Centre (ADTB), Lester B. Pearson Building, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0G2.

Direct Communication With Spouses Form

Name of spouse:

Address:

Name of employee:

(BLOCK LETTERS)

Division or Post:

Date:

Employee's signature

For further information about the *Direct Communication With Spouses* Program, contact the Posting Briefing Centre.